



*News from the
Washington State
Geologist Licensing Board*

Board News



Board Members (left to right) Gene St. Godard (seated, with hat), Bob Mitchell, Bill Laprade (seated) and Brian Beaman talk to students and faculty at Whitman College.

Discussion topics from the September board meeting

Board members met with students at Whitman College in Walla Walla in conjunction with their board meeting. Students and faculty joined staff and board members for a presentation on the path to licensure, including information on the national ASBOG exams, and requirements for licensure. Board members talked about their professional backgrounds and the impact of licensing on their work, and answered questions about the examination and licensing process.

Can't attend the board meetings in person? Minutes and audio are available on our [website](#).

Board Vacancies

The board is currently recruiting for a public member, and will have a licensed geologist board member position available in 2015. The public member must be a resident of Washington State and not be involved in the practice of geology. The licensee member must be licensed in Washington State.

If you are interested in applying for one of these positions or know someone who would be a good fit, please contact the Geologist Board [office](#) or visit the Board's [website](#). To learn about the responsibilities of a regulatory board, please visit the Governor's [website](#).

Outreach Efforts

The board is looking for additional outreach opportunities in the coming year. Potential outreach events for 2015 include:

- Meeting with students at Washington State colleges and universities.
- April 14-16, 2015 – [Washington Hydrogeology Symposium](#); Seattle, WA
- June 23-26, 2015 – [Association of Washington Cities 2015 Annual Conference](#); Wenatchee, WA

| <u>2014 Board Meeting Schedule</u> | |
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| Meeting agendas and minutes are published on our website as they become available. | |
| December 2 | South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey |
| All meetings start at 9 AM 2015 meeting dates will be set at the December meeting. | |
| <u>Your Board Members</u> | |
| Brian Beaman, LG, LEG, LHG, Chair – Carnation | |
| Robert Mitchell, LG, LHG, Vice Chair – Bellingham | |
| William Laprade, LG, LEG, Secretary – Seattle | |
| Dave Norman, LG, LEG, LHG, Member – Olympia | |
| William D. Ernst, LG, Member – Lakewood | |
| Gene St. Godard, LG, LHG, Member – Spokane | |
| Vacant, Public Member | |

Louisiana Professional Geosciences Practice Act - Update

Louisiana Representative Hunter Greene’s House Bill 167 has become law. Act 228, effective May 28, 2014, amends and reenacts the Louisiana Revised Statute 37:711.14(B) and 711.15(A)(4)(b), relative to the Louisiana Professional Geosciences Practice Act as follows:

§711.14(B) Examinations – The Board may adopt or recognize, in whole or in part, an examination prepared, administered, or graded by another organization, on a regional or national basis, that the board determines appropriate to measure the qualifications of an applicant for a license under this Chapter; however the board retains the authority to determine a passing grade for a license in this state on an adopted or recognized examination prepared, administered, or graded by another organization, on a regional or national basis.

§711.15(A)(4)(b) License eligibility – An applicant who applies for licensure under this Chapter prior to January 1, 2015, shall be exempt from taking the examination described in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph if the applicant satisfies all the other requirements of this Subsection.

Complaints and Disciplinary Activity

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| Current Cases: | |
| Unlicensed practice | 0 |
| Unprofessional conduct | 0 |
| Total open cases: | 0 |

The Geologist Licensing Board regulates the industry by investigating complaints of unprofessional conduct and incompetence against licensees, and issues of unlicensed practice. When a complaint is received by the board, an initial investigation is started to gather information about the situation, and usually involves contact with the subject of the complaint (the respondent). A

board member is assigned as a case manager and serves as the technical expert. The investigation process can be lengthy and the case has several possible outcomes. The case may be closed by the board with no further action if not enough evidence is found to support the complaint or the respondent quickly remedies the situation. For more serious issues, the board may issue a statement of charges against the respondent, with sanctions for each offense. The respondent has an opportunity for a settlement conference to negotiate the sanctions or can ask for a hearing. For more information on disciplinary orders, visit our [website](#).

The board closed two complaints at the September 30, 2014 meeting.

| Case Number | Allegation | Board Action |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 2014-05-1100-00GEO Aqua-Terr Systems, Inc & James Wiggins | Unlicensed practice | The complaint alleged the unlicensed practice of geology and the hydrogeology which included the peer review of a signed and stamped report prepared by a licensed hydrogeologist. The complaint further alleged the respondent was conducting studies that did not conform to Best Available Science as well as conducting an unethical “3 rd party review” of a report. A review of the evidence submitted with the complaint found there to be no violation of law or rule and that in accordance with the Geologist Board Policy 190-2 adopted 12/19/13 (Wetland delineation and the practice of hydrogeology), the respondent was acting within their scope of expertise. The board closed the case with no further action. |
| 2014-07-1100-00GEO Ronald Nance | Unlicensed practice | The complaint alleged the unlicensed practice of engineering geology. The respondent initially submitted a report addressing issues that required an engineering geologist license. The respondent is a licensed geologist, but not a licensed engineering geologist. Subsequent reports were stamped and signed by a licensed engineering geologist. The |

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| | | respondent has discontinued a website in which he advertised performing geotechnical engineering and was informed that he may not advertise this type of business unless he has a licensed engineering geologist or civil engineer on staff. The board closed the case because the respondent complied. |
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Licensee News

Congratulations!

The Geologist Licensing Board and staff welcomed 9 new geologists between June 1, 2014 and October 15, 2014:

| Geologist Licenses | |
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| <u>First License</u> Gavin Polite Fisco Derek Wilbur Payne | <u>Reciprocal License</u> Robyn Christina Cook Benjamin S. Johnson Jane-Clair Alexandra Kerin Michael Robert Murray Clifford J. Nale Erick J. Staley Matthew Grant Wilson |

Delinquent Licensees

In February 2014, the Geologist Licensing Board began publishing the names of licensees who have failed to renew their license. The current list includes people whose licenses lapsed between June 1, 2014 and October 15. PLEASE NOTE – it's not a complete list of all our lapsed licenses. To check the status of your license, visit the Department of Licensing's [license look-up page](#).

| Delinquent Licensees June 1, 2014 through October 15, 2014 | |
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| BARNETT,MARCY A BENHAM,STEVEN R BINSFIELD,BRIAN WADE BONIFACI,PAUL KENNETH BRUNO,DONALD J CORNER,HOLLY JEAN CUMMINGS,JALYN C EASTERLY,MICHAEL M FRICKE,CARL HOLMES,DAVID A HOUCK,JOHN CAMPBELL HUSSEY,DANIEL H KOLTES,ERIC MICHAEL | LIAS,RAIMO A LOPEZ,ALEXANDER MITCHELL,DAVID KENNETH NICHOLLS,ANDREW TODD ORNDORFF,RICHARD L PAPPALARDO,MICHAEL E PIETRASZEK,JOSEPH HENRY RACHMAN,ELIZABETH ANN REYNOLDS,PATRICK H ROHAY,ALAN CHARLES STOKER,BRUCE ALEXANDER WEISS,JEFFREY MARK WOLFE,STEVEN PHILIP |

Remember: you need an active license to practice geology. If your license is not active and you perform any activities that require a license, you could be subject to disciplinary action from the board.

Examination information

If you or someone you know is preparing to take the Fundamentals of Geology, Practice of Geology, Engineering Geologist, or Hydrogeologist exams, please visit our [Examinations](#) webpage for application deadlines and how to register.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Exam Calendar</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)</u> Fundamentals of Geology Practice of Geology Exam date March 6, 2015 <i>Application deadline December 12, 2014</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Engineering Geologist Specialty Exam</u> Exam date March 6, 2015 <i>Application deadline December 12, 2014</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hydrogeologist Specialty Exam</u> Exam date July 10, 2015 <i>Application deadline May 8, 2015</i></p> |
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Keep your license active – remember these 3 tips:

1. Renewal fees are due every year on your birthday and are your responsibility.
2. Renewal notices are a courtesy—you are accountable for renewing even if you don't receive a notice.
3. You should notify our office when you change your address: geologist@dol.wa.gov or 360-664-1497.

Do your fellow geologists get these announcements?

They should. Please tell them to sign up to the Geologists' ListServ electronic mailing list. They can join the Listserv by visiting our [website](#) and following these steps:

- Select the ListServ® link
- Select the “Join or leave the list (or change settings)” link
- Enter your email address and name, then select the join list button
- You will be sent a confirmation email, and then you will be added to the list

Skip a trip – go online: www.dol.wa.gov

We are committed to providing equal access to our services.

If you need accommodation, please call 360-664-6597 or TTY 360-664-0116.

| Geologist Licensing Board | | Washington State Department of Licensing |
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| Mailing address: PO Box 9045 • Olympia, WA 98507-9045 | Street address: 405 Black Lake Blvd. • Olympia, WA 98502 | E-Mail: geologist@dol.wa.gov |
| Phone: (360) 664-1497 | Fax: (360) 570-7098 | Web site: www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist |